



**Minutes of the
ALAMEDA FREE LIBRARY BOARD MEETING
May 14, 2008**

The regular meeting of the Alameda Free Library Board was called to order at 6:12 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Leslie Krongold, President
Karen Butter, Vice President
Mike Hartigan, Board Member

Absent: Ruth Belikove, Board Member
Alan Mitchell, Board Member

Staff: Jane Chisaki, Library Director
Marsha Merrick, Recording Secretary

CONSENT CALENDAR

An asterisk indicates items so enacted and adopted on the Consent Calendar.

- A. *Report from Library Director highlighting Library Department activities for the month of May 2008. Accepted.
- B. *Draft Minutes of the Regular Library Board meeting of April 9, 2008. Approved.
*Draft Minutes of the Special Library Board meeting of April 29, 2008. Approved.
- C. *Library Services Report for the month of March 2008. Accepted.
- D. *Report from Finance Department reflecting FY 2007-08 Library expenditures (by fund) through April 2008. Accepted.
- E. *Bills for ratification for the month of April 2008. Approved.

Vice President Butter observed that the Library had spent 83% of its budget, and wondered if anything would be given back. Director Chisaki expects only a small amount to be left at the end of the year, and explained that revenues haven't been as high as projected. Butter requested that the Board get a look at what the original 2008 budget numbers were before any cuts had been made. Chisaki will provide this information at the next board meeting.

President Krongold asked about the little girl recently identified in the vintage photo mentioned in the Director's letter to the board. Chisaki talked about how thrilled she was to hear from Lynn Janvier, now Lynn Parodi, and said that the Alameda Sun may try to do a follow-up article with her.

President Krongold asked for a motion to accept the Consent Calendar as presented. Member Hartigan so moved; Vice President Butter seconded the motion which carried by a 3-0 vote.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS, NON-AGENDA (Public Comment)

Marc Lambert inquired about how the “Free2” campaign was going. The on-line contest set up to express what the Library has allowed you to be “Free2” do is almost over, and “Free2” screensavers will be loaded onto the public computers. Depending on available funds, other “Free2” give-away items may be purchased. Lambert then asked about the Shrader Trust and what is happening to the money. That brought up a bit of discussion; Director Chisaki does not believe the Library is getting any interest on the funds at this time, but she will check on the status. The Board would like to be involved when it is time to make a decision on how to utilize those funds.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Strategic Planning Committee Update (M. Hartigan)

Member Hartigan said the committee had met the previous week and gave a brief rundown on progress to date. The individual groups had come up with very similar thoughts on each service response; Hartigan went through these with the Board, giving details on what the thinking had been when the group had come up with the 6 top categories. The Board then had a lengthy discussion about the information provided. The project consultant, Ruth Metz, will attend a future Board meeting to address any questions or concerns, and the completed Strategic Plan will go before the City Council for their approval a short time after that. Vice President Butter said the Strategic Planning Committee and the Library staff should be congratulated for all the hard work they have done to get to this point.

B. Art Exhibit Committee (R. Belikove)

Member Belikove was absent, and the last regular committee meeting had been cancelled. The next exhibit opening June 6th will be works by Alameda women artists. President Krongold had spoken at the Wood Museum of History opening reception and commented that it was very loud. At this point, Director Chisaki skipped ahead to read a speak-out which referenced this issue, and also read the Library’s response (see Item E for details).

C. Alameda Free Library Foundation (A. Mitchell)

Member Mitchell was absent, and Director Chisaki spoke about efforts to bring in author Michael Pollan. The Foundation is attempting to secure space in the new theater to have this event, but a meeting room policy has not yet been written. It may be too late in the year to get Pollan once the room policy is in place, so alternative venues are being investigated.

D. Friends of the Alameda Free Library (M. Lambert)

Marc Lambert expressed his appreciation of Director Chisaki's summary in the Board letter on the recent book sale. There had been 1,100 boxes of books transported to the sale, and over \$17,000 made. Director Chisaki advised the Board that she had secured a new space for the Friends to store their books at Alameda Point. Lambert had the most recent copy of the Friends newsletter, and encouraged everyone to sign up for the e-mail version now being offered. The Alameda County Friends of the Libraries had met at the Alameda Free Library in March, and our Friends and Foundation had co-hosted the Northern California Friends and Foundations the previous week as well.

E. Patron suggestions/comments (Speak-Outs) and Library Director's response.

A request was made to be able to do an Inter-Library Loan request on-line. Staff is looking into this, and there is a possibility of it being available as early as next month. A comment was received about the noise volume during the Wood Middle School Museum of History's opening reception. The event coordinator has already been contacted about the behaviors of the students, and steps will be taken next year to ensure good conduct, and to have some parental supervision in place on the afternoon and evening of the reception.

LIBRARY BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

None.

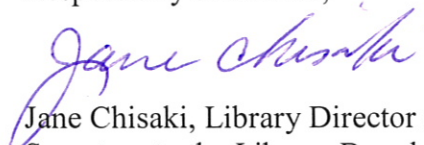
DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

The Season for Non-Violence Speech Contest will be held the following Sunday at the Library, and Director Chisaki encouraged attendance at the event. The artwork by Michael Carey is now complete, and Chisaki passed around pictures for the Board's review. The City Council is set to hear the budget at a meeting on May 27th. May 31st will be Family Fun Day at the Library, and events and entertainment will be paid for with funds received from the Early Learning with Families state grant.

ADJOURNMENT

President Krongold asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:29 p.m. Vice President Butter so moved; Member Hartigan seconded the motion which carried by a 3-0 vote.

Respectfully submitted,


Jane Chisaki, Library Director and
Secretary to the Library Board

This meeting's agenda was posted in accordance with the Brown Act.